GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:557
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
INDIA-EU TIES
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed by the Prime Minister with his Counterparts during his last visit to the European Union; and

(b) the outcome thereof in different Sectors, sector-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation for the first India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000Various bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual concern were discussed during this Summit.

A major achievement of the Summit was the mutual agreement between India and the EU to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century. The India-EU Joint Declaration, which was adopted at the Summit, provides broad guidelines for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An Agenda for Action which encompasses joint initiatives in the political, economic and commercial fields was also agreed upon. The two sides also agreed to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet the challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. It was agreed that India and the EU will together strive for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The visit also enabled us to convey our concerns regarding trade related protectionist measures as well as to share views on WTO-related matters. It was agreed that both sides would work to progressively liberalise trade, oppose protectionist tendencies and create an open, equitable and non-discriminatory rule-based multilateral trading system.